

Norris House
Name of Property

Reno County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Domestic/secondary structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Domestic/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements:
Craftsman / Prairie School

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: concrete
Walls: wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1912

Significant Dates

1912

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Hutchinson Landmarks Commission

Norris House
Name of Property

Reno County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	4	5	9	4	0	0	8	4	2	1	3	4	5	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

2

Zone		Easting						Northing						

3

Zone		Easting						Northing						

4

Zone		Easting						Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Douglas E McGovern, President

Organization Home Sweet History Date 4/05/09

Street & number 100 West 20th Avenue Telephone (620) 662-2247

City or town Hutchinson State Kansas Zip code 67502

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name Lawrence & Nancy Sliker

Street & number 301 East 12th Avenue Telephone (620) 259-7384

City or town Hutchinson State Kansas Zip code 67501

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 1

G.W. Norris House
Hutchinson, Reno County, KS

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Norris House, 301 East 12th Avenue, is a well-preserved example of the classic Foursquare house with early 20th century Craftsman influences. This two-and-one-half story frame residence has a front gabled medium pitch roof, off-center entrance, and single story front porch. The porch has a low-hipped roof and moulded fascia. The interior of the house is little changed, retaining many of the original windows and lighting fixtures. The woodwork is preserved as original. The house occupies a corner lot fronting north on East 12th Avenue at the corner of East 12th and Maple Street (to the west) and is set back with a lawn and concrete walkway. There are shrubs and bushes along the foundation. Trees surround the residence. There is a contributing garage at the south boundary of the property, reached from Maple Street. This garage dates from approximately 1920 with a design complementary to the house.

The builder and architect are unknown.

This area was the second site of the Kansas State Fair from 1900 to 1910. Building began in the area surrounding the Fair in 1906. In 1911 the Fair finished moving further north to its present location, opening up all of the area to home building, which was essentially complete in this area by 1928. Homes representing the upper middle class and upper class residential area of early 20th-century Hutchinson, including Bungalow style, Four Square, Half Cube, Homestead, and Queen Anne architecture are all represented. The streetscape in this area is little changed from the late 1920s. This includes the intersecting streets themselves, which are both of brick. All buildings have similar setbacks, alleys are consistently used between numbered streets, and few of the residences have been substantially modified.

Exterior

The Norris House has a front gabled medium pitch asphalt shingle roof, off-center entrance, and single story front porch. The front of the house displays moulded fascia, returned eaves and one-over-one double hung, wood frame windows with moulded lintel at the pediment. The windows at the lower level façade are one-over-one double-hung, wood frame windows with the top panel being beveled leaded glass. The porch has a low-hipped roof with asphalt shingle roofing and moulded fascia. There is a closed wood panel railing and four wood panel piers, two of which are smaller and rest upon the porch railing. A new wrought iron railing has been added to the steps. The entry is off-center with a metal frame outer screen door, and an inner single light wood panel door. The porch and house foundations are rusticated concrete block above grade and poured concrete below grade. The house has narrow redwood clapboard wall sheathing.

There are two brick chimneys. A central chimney services the old heater location, the new heater and the central utilities. The second chimney is on the east side of the house near the northeast corner. This chimney is dedicated to the fireplace in the sitting room.

A porch was added at the rear (south side of the house) in approximately 1950. There is a slight difference in exterior clapboard widths and the rusticated versus flat concrete block foundation between the old and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

G.W. Norris House
Hutchinson, Reno County, KS

Section Number 7 Page 2

new parts of the wall. Over time the porch has been enclosed to become interior livable space as well as room for utilities and storage.

The windows on the front, side, and rear elevations of the house are original except for four which are identified in the narrative below. All windows, unless otherwise specified are original, operable one-over-one double-hung wood windows.

Interior

The primary entrance is offset on the north elevation. The entry door opens into a sitting room (to the east). The front window in this room is a one-over-one double-hung, wood frame window with the top panel being beveled leaded glass. The sitting room has a fireplace with original tile and wood box. Original walls, woodwork, and lighting fixtures are present. Two fixed single-pane beveled leaded glass windows flank the fireplace.

A stairway to the upper levels of the house is in the southeast corner of the sitting room. A square landing separates the flight of stairs at the midpoint. This landing also serves to allow access to the upper portion of the stairs from a second, smaller, staircase connecting to the kitchen. The staircase retains its original finish, matching the woodwork in the rest of the house. The light fixture is an original five globe classic revival, pan, shower fixture (with a shortened center hanger).

A square archway separates the sitting room from a living room (to the west). The front two windows and the one side window (west) in this room are one-over-one double-hung, wood frame windows with the top panel being beveled leaded glass. The light fixture is an original five globe classic revival, pan, shower fixture (with a shortened center hanger).

The dining room is behind the living room (west side of the house). The west window was replaced in the 1950 remodel to a fixed seven-foot wide by six foot high panel. The original opening and window frame remain. An original china cabinet with beveled leaded glass doors is on the east side of the dining room.

All of the woodwork separating entry, living room, dining room, and stairs is original and in excellent condition. The heating registers (original forced air) are original, in-place, and functional.

On the south side of the dining room is a wall with entries to the kitchen (to the east) and den (to the west). The 1950 remodel extended the house, beyond the den, by nine feet making what is now the library. The library incorporates an original one-over-one double hung wood frame window with beveled leaded glass in the upper panel on the east. Three one-over-one double hung wood windows (with decorative muntins) were installed on the south wall during the remodel.

The kitchen has cabinets dating from the 1950 remodeling. The pantry cabinets were moved to the basement at the same time, making space for a breakfast nook. The pantry cabinets were moved to the basement and plans are to return them to their original location. The area south of the kitchen includes an

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 3

G.W. Norris House
Hutchinson, Reno County, KS

enclosed porch, laundry/utility room, and a storage room. This area was formed during the 1950 remodeling.

There is a full unfinished basement. It was used at various times for canning, woodwork, a photographic darkroom, and storage. A gas-fired furnace is located in the basement. The walls to the original coal room have been removed, enlarging the main area.

The second floor is entered from the front stairs or an adjoining service staircase from the kitchen (joining the main stairs at the landing). The window above the stair landing was replaced with a new double-hung one-over-one wood window as the result of damage when a tree limb crashed into the side of the house.

The second floor is dedicated to sleeping areas. The upper hall provides access to three bedrooms, the bathroom, linen storage closets, and the stairs to the attic. This floor is original except for some painted woodwork and modification made during the 1950 rebuild. The floor has been carpeted but the original pine floor, where revealed in several places, appears to be in good condition. The north bedrooms are original. They are complete with the original ceiling mounted light fixtures. The south bedrooms and bathroom were modified in the 1950 remodel to when an original nursery was converted into a dressing room and the original bathroom was divided into two bathrooms. Doors opening to the hall were not moved. The interior doors for the nursery and bathroom were changed in the rebuild. All windows on the second floor are original, workable, one-over-one double-hung wood windows.

The attic is entered from stairs next to the main staircase. The attic is semi-finished. Attic windows are all original one-over-one double-hung windows. The attic windows need to be restored.

Garage (c. 1950s) non-contributing

There is a west-facing garage placed at the south edge of the property. According to Fire Insurance maps, a garage was added to the property at the rear of the lot prior to 1922.

The outbuilding in the Sanborn map appears to be a one-car garage. Sanborn codes suggest the building was of hollow cinder or concrete block. Given the appearance of the existing garage and the fact that it has the capacity to house two cars, it was likely constructed in the 1950s when other changes were made to the property. However, this has not been firmly documented. It is a front gable, two-car garage with asphalt shingles and horizontal wood drop siding. There are two individual overhead garage doors on the west elevation. There is a single door with a four-pane window central to the north elevation and a boarded up window on the south. The garage sits on a concrete slab. The building features little embellishment beyond the vertical wood siding in the gable.

The garage faces Maple Street (to the west) and is adjacent to the alleyway on the south.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 4

G.W. Norris House
Hutchinson, Reno County, KS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Norris House, built in 1912, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance as a single-family house reflective of a classic Foursquare with Craftsman influences.

Elaboration

The original town site of Hutchinson was located near the Arkansas River where it was bisected by Cow Creek. It was selected by C.C. Hutchinson, a U.S. Indian Agent who had made an agreement with the Santa Fe Railroad to lay out a town where the railroad would cross the Little Arkansas River. Hutchinson's original town site was one square mile. The railroad retained its prominence in Hutchinson's history. In 1912, Hutchinson ranked fifth in the United States in terms of Santa Fe system freight tonnage.¹

Leander A. Bigger, S.W. Campbell, W.R. Brown, and others formed the Hutchinson Investment Company in 1872 to support the growth of this new town. This company later supported the development of the area where the Norris House was built as the Ninth Addition to the city.²

The area bounded by Main, Poplar, Seventeenth and Eleventh was the second home of the Kansas State Fair from 1900 to 1910. The Fair did not occupy all of this land so houses began to be built there in about 1906. The area was essentially filled by 1928 with only a few (less than 10) houses added after that.³

The neighborhood streetscape is generally uniform with most houses having the same setback. Many of these houses occupy two lots since the original plat was for twenty-five foot widths. Alleys are in the centers of the blocks and all buildings are orthogonal to the street pattern.

The land upon which this house stands was originally platted in 1891 with ownership through the First National Bank of Hutchinson. Lots forty-five and forty six were sold to H.G. Evans in January 1910, for a value of \$500. The property was then sold to Mina Miller in May 1910, for \$750. Her spouse, Harrison Miller was a partner (with W.G. Haines) in the Haines-Miller Paint and Glass Company. The Haines-Miller Paint and Glass Company figures prominently in the 1910-1913 Hutchinson City Directories with ads "Largest Wholesale and Retail Stock in the City", "Jobbers and Retailers of Plate Window and Ornamental Glass", "Floor Waxes, Varnish Stains, Paints and Polishes", and "Carries Everything for Interior and Exterior Home Decorations".⁴ The house at 301 East 12th was erected during this period. The architect and builder are not known.

¹ Deon Wolfenbarger. "Commercial and Industrial Resources of Hutchinson." National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Documentation Form. 19 May 2003, p 3.

² Hutchinson Plat Map, 1915.

³ Linda Laird, "Historic Resources Survey, Hutchinson, Kansas, Final Report, 1988, Midtown", Linda Laird & Associates, 1988, 6.

⁴ R.L. Polk & Company, Hutchinson City Directory, various years.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 5

G.W. Norris House
Hutchinson, Reno County, KS

In September 1912, the house was deeded by the Millers to G.W. Norris. The price at that time was "\$3,000 and other valuable considerations". Norris was a retired farmer but there is also some record of his acting as an early real estate broker in Hutchinson. George and Anna Norris lived here the rest of their lives. In 1940 the property was passed to Georgiana Rutledge (the only surviving child). It remained in her family until 1986 when it was sold to the next generation. It finally was sold from the Norris line in 2008, when bought by the present owner.

Three family weddings were held in this house: Georgiana and Charles Routledge (daughter) in 1924, Gert and Glen Routledge (Chet's brother) in 1950, and Karen and Jim Mullen (great grandson) in 1972.⁵

Of particular note in the history of the family is the time from 1916 to 1918. Christmas found the house quarantined as son Herbert (then age 8) was diagnosed with diphtheria. He passed on New Year's Day, 1917. This was followed shortly by the enlistment of son Fred (age 24) for service in the Great War. Below is one of his letters:

"France Sept. 22t 1918

To: Mrs. G. W. Norris 301 E. 12th Hutchinson, Kans.

Dear Folks,

Had a note already written that I am sending to-day. Had a little more time to hand in mail though and will write a little more.

The last 2 or 3 weeks have made us realize what our training has done for us. Have been on the move most of the time and usually under very unfavorable conditions. Most of the moving has to be done at night and sometimes you have to hurry to get to your destination by daylight. It isn't the pleasantest thing to pitch camp in the woods on a dark rainy night. But it seems to do us more good than harm. We can fix up a might comfortable shelter in a short order.

A few of us went out this morning and picked enough blackberries for cobbler for the company tonight. Seems rather late for them but they are just ripe here and we found lots of them.

Am glad you received the fern tips O.K. Wish you could see them growing. They grow so large and in such abundance.

I suppose the Fair either ended or started to-day. The weather here has been very similar to fair week at home. Hope you don't make yourself sick entertaining company.

You should have received a Liberty Bond I bought by this time. I made my last payment in July. Let me know if you receive it.

Haven't received any mail for sometime. Pretty hard for it to catch up with us I guess.

Will write again at the first opportunity.

With Love, Fred.

⁵ "My First 100 Years – Ode to 301 East 12th", notes provided by Norris family to present owners, February 15, 2008.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 6

G.W. Norris House
Hutchinson, Reno County, KS

Pvt. Fred F. Norris
Co A 110th Engineers
American E. F. ⁶

This was the last of Fred's letters home since he was killed in action during the push at Meuse-Argonne on September 29, 1918. The 110th Engineers were holding the line against a German counter-offensive. Sergeant Alfred G. Baker of Topeka and Fred Norris were killed by the same shell. He and the Sergeant are buried side by side in the Romagne Cemetery in the Argonne.

In 1920 a set of memorial markers were placed on bridges in Hutchinson to commemorate the eleven Reno County residents who had given their lives for the country during the war and were lost at sea or buried in foreign soil. Fred Norris's stone was originally placed on the Poplar Street bridge over the creek.

Counting all the children and grandchildren that had lived or visited 301 East 12th prior to the final sale of the property in 2008, the Norris House had accommodated six generations of the G. W. Norris family.

Architecture

According to author Alan Gowans, the American Foursquare "was one of three essentially new house types that evolved in and for those new post-Victorian suburbs." Popular early twentieth-century house catalogs and advertisers often stressed the Foursquare's "Americanness": "Thoroughly American in architecture, it is a house anyone will be proud to identify as 'My Home'" was Aladdin's description of its Willamette model.⁷ Gowans goes on to say: "The American foursquare thus appealed to that same need for stability and solidity which on another level was satisfied by associations with English or colonial American roots."⁸

The Norris House remains as built in 1912 except for the 1950 remodel at the rear (south) side of the house. The raised basement, full-width verandah, offset front door, pyramid porch roof, square columns, and wide entry stairs all portray the typical features of an American Foursquare home.⁹ This is reinforced by the second-story windows and the small, centrally located, attic window. While the front gabled roof is atypical, the extended eave overhangs and the flattened pitch are considered features of some of this type of house.¹⁰ It remains a reasonably pristine example of the Prairie Box or American Foursquare as defined by McAlester. It shows a simplicity and honesty that represents the mid years of Hutchinson's growth.

⁶ Norris family papers

⁷ Alan Gowans, *The Comfortable House: North American Suburban Architecture, 1890-1930* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1986), 84.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2005), 439.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 7

G.W. Norris House
Hutchinson, Reno County, KS

The houses in the immediate neighborhood of the Norris House have also preserved much of their integrity. Within five houses either direction (on 12th Avenue) are five other Foursquare houses, seven Bungalows, four Half-Cube, two Queen Anne, and three that are mixed styles. Many of these have been modified but the visual impact remains much as it was in the 1920s.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 9 Page 8

G.W. Norris House
City, County, KS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Published Sources

- Gowans, Alan. *The Comfortable House: North American Suburban Architecture, 1890-1930*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1986.
- Hutchinson City Directories, R.L. Polk & Company, Various years.
- "Kansas Historic Resources Inventory", Linda Laird & Associates, December, 1987.
- McAlester, Virginia, and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2005.
- Mitchell, Pat, and Linda Laird. "Fairgrounds History, 1989", Laird & Associates, December, 1989.
- "My First 100 Years – Ode to 301 East 12th", notes provided by Norris family to present owners, February 15, 2008.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, April 1915, Sheet 28.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, April 1922, Sheet 27.

Unpublished Sources

- Hutchinson, Kansas, City of Hutchinson, Plat maps.
- Norris family papers
- Wolfenbarger, Deon. "Commercial and Industrial Resources of Hutchinson." National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Documentation Form. 19 May 2003.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 10& Photos Page 9

G.W. Norris House
Hutchinson, Reno County, KS

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 45 and 46, Block 7, Hutchinson Investment Company's Ninth Addition to the City of Hutchinson, Reno, County, Kansas.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the land historically associated with the Norris House.

PHOTOGRAPIC INFORMATION

Property Name: G.W. Norris House
Location: 301 East 12th Avenue, Hutchinson, Reno County, Kansas
Photographer: Douglas E McGovern
Date: as indicated below

- Photo 1: North (front) elevation, facing S
Photo taken 9/29/08
- Photo 2: North (front) and east (side) elevations, facing SW
Photo taken 1/20/09
- Photo 3: East (side) elevation, facing SW
Photo taken 1/20/09
- Photo 4: South (rear) and west (side) elevations, facing NE
Photo taken 9/29/08
- Photo 5: 1910 house and 1950 porch junction, SE corner, facing NW
Photo taken 9/29/08
- Photo 6: South (rear) elevation and garage, facing NE
Photo taken 1/20/09
- Photo 7: West (front) and north (side) garage elevations, facing SE
Photo taken 1/20/09
- Photo 8: East 12th Avenue street scene, facing SW
Photo taken 1/20/09
- Photo 9: Front door, facing NE
Photo taken 9/29/08
- Photo 10: Entry, fireplace, main stairs in Entry room, facing E
Photo taken 1/20/09

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

G.W. Norris House
Hutchinson, Reno County, KS

Section Number 10& Photos Page 10

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- Photo 11: Main stair case, facing SE
Photo taken 1/20/09
- Photo 12: Living room, facing NW
Photo taken 1/20/09
- Photo 13: Living room, facing W
Photo taken 1/20/09
- Photo 14: Living room and dining room, facing SW
Photo taken 1/20/09
- Photo 15: Dining room china cabinet, facing SE
Photo taken 1/20/09
- Photo 16: Dining room and library, facing SW
Photo taken 1/20/09
- Photo 17: Back stairs in kitchen, facing NE
Photo taken 1/20/09
- Photo 18: Second floor floorboards and landing, facing E
Photo taken 1/20/09